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HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian actors are balancing their response efforts with promoting emergency preparedness in the MENA region.
- Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) and other common appeals have been revised to reflect changes in humanitarian needs in 2013. There are revised appeals for Afghanistan, Palestine, Syria and Yemen, totalling US\$ 2.1 billion and targeting 24.8 million people in need.

FUNDING

- Consolidated and flash appeals in the MENA region are currently 9 % funded, with additional requirements totalling over US\$ 1.9 billion.
- 8 countries from the MENA region have contributed funds to appeals in 2012. These total US\$ 65.3 Million with Syria and neighboring countries the largest recipients.

Supporting emergency preparedness in the region

As humanitarian crises across the Middle East and North Africa continue to unfold, the humanitarian community has response at the fore of its priorities. It is vital that the needs of people affected by life-threatening issues and attacks on their livelihoods are being met in a timely, effective and predictable manner.

Balancing emergency preparedness and response

Humanitarian organizations need also to be prepared to respond to changes in these humanitarian crises and/or for new or emerging crises. Preparedness is the knowledge and capacities developed by governments, professional response and recovery organizations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current emergency situations. In other words, clarifying ahead of time what capacities exist in each country, what systems need to be set up to enhance them and utilize them optimally, and additionally what external support can be used to save crucial time in the initial phase of a response.

UNOCHA's regional office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) is working to ensure an adequate balance between meeting urgent response needs in the region with preparing countries to be in a strong state of readiness to respond. Governments have the primary responsibility to



The 10th sectoral meeting between the League of Arab States and the United Nations and their specialized organizations on: Cooperation in Humanitarian Assistance in the Arab Region (Cairo, 23 Feb 2012)

strengthen national response capacity, and the humanitarian community can support these efforts through effective preparedness. A key mechanism for doing so is a set of Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPA).

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Minimum Preparedness Actions

It is now known that emergency situations have common aspects of response that can be prepared for in advance. In this regard, OCHA, in partnership with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, have developed a set of MPAs. These include eight *end states* (see table), which focus on the minimum level of appropriate knowledge, skills, plans and systems that are needed to effectively respond to an emergency.

Country-response capabilities level

1. Humanitarian country teams¹ and governments understand basic roles, responsibilities and emergency capacities based on an analysis of risk; and can make appropriate use of international response mechanisms.
2. Inclusive humanitarian coordination structures are established and functioning immediately following onset of emergency.
3. Humanitarian country teams and governments are able to initiate joint assessments and utilize the findings.
4. Inter-agency funding documents (e.g. FA and CERF applications) are issued within 96/72 hours following onset of emergency.
5. Humanitarian country teams are able to produce key Information Management and reporting products based on sectorial inputs to support coordination, analysis and decision-making.
6. Humanitarian country teams have an agreed public information/crisis communication strategy.
7. Effective coordination exists between humanitarian country teams, governments, the military, civil society and others.
8. Government creates an enabling environment for international responders and can effectively trigger its own internal resources.

“Promoting preparedness facilitates inclusive coordination as it provides an understanding of the actors on the ground and their response plans in the event that an emergency occurs.”

For the MENA region, OCHA ROMENA has initiated an MPA mapping process to assess the level of preparedness in the region and identify gaps that need to be addressed. This is being done in a way that complements existing initiatives in country, such as preparedness discussions in Tunisia and Iraq, and with medium to longer term preparedness initiatives, such as the Hyogo Framework for Action, that seek to mitigate risks and address root causes of vulnerability. As an example of MPA's adaptability, the MPA can act as an effective checklist for HCTs and governments in countries neighboring

¹ Humanitarian Country Teams are composed of organisations that undertake humanitarian action in-country and that commit to participate in coordination arrangements. It can be comprised of UN humanitarian agencies, international NGOs, donor representatives and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Syria to gauge whether the minimum level of emergency response is in place, even though the humanitarian community has already begun its response operations.

Improving coordination and cohesive responses

Promoting the MPA also facilitates inclusive coordination as it provides an understanding of the actors on the ground and their response plans in the event that an emergency occurs. This is especially important as more regional and national actors are responding to emergencies. As highlighted by Abdulhaq Amiri, head of the OCHA ROMENA office, “In this region, a significant trend is that we are seeing a multiplication of national NGOs that are providing humanitarian assistance to those affected by emergency situations. This was especially evident in Tunisia and Egypt in the response to the crisis in Libya and it is the case today in the Syria humanitarian response. A challenge is that these organizations often act in isolation from international humanitarian actors and coordination mechanisms and if we are to more effectively meet needs we have to promote greater collaboration.”

As many of the current crises have regional linkages, such as refugees flows between countries, systems and plans have to inform those of neighboring countries even if responsibility falls to different teams. To illustrate, when drafting the contingency plan for Iraq, it is important that it considers what is happening in Syria as it develops potential emergency scenarios that may occur. Linking contingency plans is also paramount for the efficient utilization of resources.



Training of facilitators on contingency planning and simulation exercise (22-25 Apr 2012 Cairo)

Challenges going forward

An emerging gap is that, while inclusive contingency response planning is taking place as part of the MPA, testing them through simulations is not happening. These are critical for ensuring preparedness plans and systems are effectively working, for testing key assumptions made and making sure key personnel know their roles and responsibilities. Challenges to running simulations have already been identified at country level, from a lack of capacity to facilitate them to the practical challenges involved in getting the actors included in the contingency plan together to run through it. OCHA ROMENA invested in

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the regional capacity to run simulations and desk-top exercises in mid-2012 and will seek to use this know-how to better test preparedness in the region.

Whilst current headlines are dominated by the increasing level of humanitarian needs in the region, OCHA ROMENA and its partners, in addition to providing effective response, are committed to ensuring adequate preparedness at country and regional levels so as to make sure the international humanitarian system is fit for purpose and up to meeting the challenges that may lie ahead.

Common humanitarian appeals 2013: responding to changing humanitarian needs in the region

The Middle East and North Africa region continues to face significant humanitarian challenges. Armed conflict in Syria is causing large scale displacement and severely affecting people's safety and livelihoods. In Palestine, the occupation and ongoing conflict have led to a protracted protection crisis. Widespread insecurity and high exposure to natural hazards in Afghanistan is creating significant humanitarian needs. In Yemen, extreme water scarcity, armed conflict, high food prices and poor public services have meant that millions do not have access to safe water and almost half the population is malnourished.

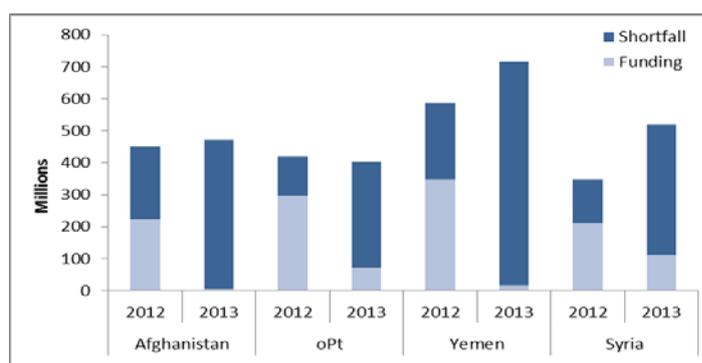
“To cope with changing needs in 2013, humanitarian agencies have sought to coordinate efforts to avoid gaps and duplication and focus on urgent needs.”

Consolidated Appeals Process

In order to cope with the scale of these emergencies, humanitarian agencies have sought to coordinate efforts to avoid gaps and duplication, focus on urgent needs and work towards longer term recovery. This is done through the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP), which brings agencies together to jointly plan, coordinate, implement and monitor their response to emergencies. It also allows them to appeal for funds cohesively and ensure people in need can be supported in a timely, predictable and accountable way. A CAP usually comprises of a common humanitarian action plan that outlines projects and serves as an ongoing frame of reference and detailed work plan for large-scale, sustained humanitarian action.

In the MENA region, there are CAPs or similar appeals for Afghanistan, Palestine, Syria and Yemen. For 2013, these have been revised to take into account changes in the

Appeals requirements and funding comparison (2012 and 2013)



political, economic and social situation on the ground and their impact on people's humanitarian needs.

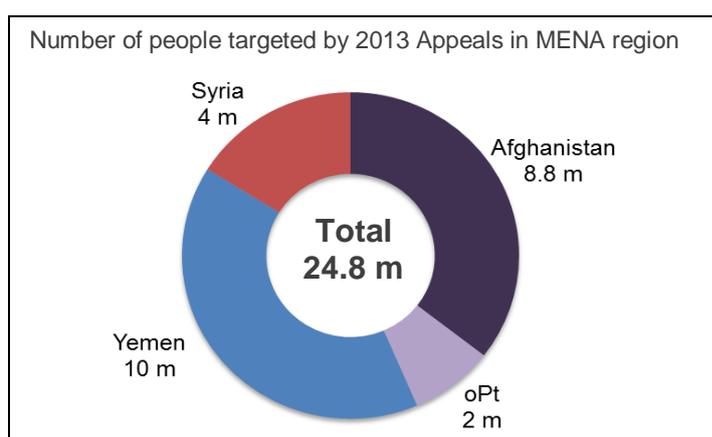
2013: Changing humanitarian needs in the region

For Syria, the Syria Humanitarian Response Plan (SHARP) and the Regional Refugee Plan (RRP), which cover the period January 2013 – June 2013, were both revised in December 2012. The SHARP aims to provide relief supplies and emergency services to the most affected, including those that have left their homes and communities hosting them. It estimates that there are 4 million people in need including 360,000 Palestinian refugees. The plan is appealing for US\$519 million. The RRP estimates that the number of Syrian refugees will reach 1.1 million people and, for the first time, includes Egypt, in addition to Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, in its planning figures. The RRP aims to provide lifesaving assistance to refugees to ensure that the cost of their welcome is not borne by the countries of asylum alone, or by many local communities that are assisting despite their limited means.

“In Afghanistan, the priorities for 2013 are to provide more assistance to the displaced, minimize the human impact of natural disasters and secure better access to people in need.”

In Afghanistan, the humanitarian community is appealing for US \$ 471 million in order to reach 8.8 million people in need and tackle acutely low humanitarian indicators: every day 165 children under 5 lose their lives and a pregnant woman dies every 2 hours. Added to this is pervasive insecurity, high exposure to natural hazards, conflict displacement at a record high of nearly half a million people and growing slums in urban areas. The priorities for the humanitarian response in 2013 are to provide more assistance to the displaced, minimize the human impact of natural disasters and secure better access to people in need.

For Yemen, this year's appeal requests US\$716 million in order to cope with extreme water scarcity, armed conflict, high food prices and poor public services. The appeal mainly focuses on alleviating food insecurity, which affects 10.5 million



Yemenis (almost half the population), and aims to reach seven million people with assistance. The appeal also seeks to improve access to water, with currently 13 million Yemenis without access to safe drinking water and sanitation. In a coordinated approach, the appeal brings together 89 organizations, including UN agencies and international and local NGOs.

“In Palestine, humanitarian assistance is needed to prevent a further deterioration in the protection of the civilian population.”

In Palestine, humanitarian assistance is needed to prevent a further deterioration in the protection of the civilian population, improve food security, ensure access to basic services, and prevent forced displacement. The 2013 appeal requests US\$374 million and targets 1.8 million people in need of assistance. It has two main strategic priorities, which include enhancing the protection of populations in Gaza, West Bank and East Jerusalem and improving food security of vulnerable and food-insecure communities. This will be achieved by promoting respect for IHL and human rights, preventing or mitigating the impacts of violations, improving equitable access to essential services, improving economic access to a greater variety of food and providing direct food assistance.

For further information, please contact:

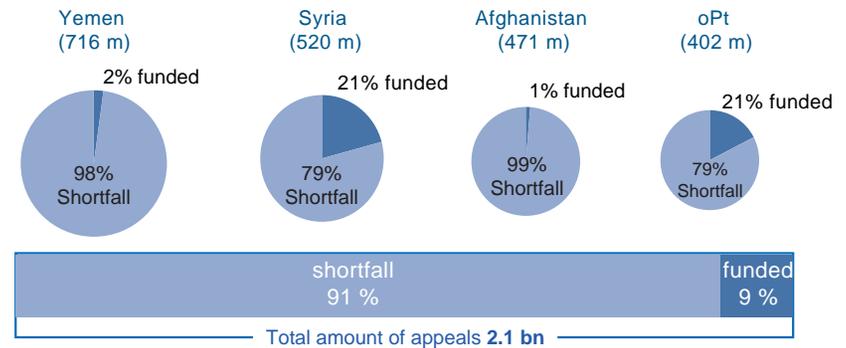
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OCHA humanitarian bulletins are available at <http://ochaonline.un.org/romena> | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int

SITUATION OVERVIEW

- 1 Consolidated and Flash appeals in the MENA region received US\$ 200 million. The largest recipient was Syria, with US\$108 million, followed by oPt with US\$70 million. In total, the appeals are 9% funded with a shortfall of 91%.
- 2 The Syrian Humanitarian Response Plan (SHARP) and the Regional Response Plan for Syrian Refugees (RRP) jointly received US\$312 million, which leaves a total shortfall of US\$1.2 billion in 2013. The SHARP now requires US\$520 million to provide assistance to four million people in need. The RRP now requires US\$1 billion to provide assistance to 1.1 million refugees in Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt.
- 3 Eight countries from the MENA region contributed and/or pledged funds in 2013 for humanitarian appeals worldwide. The amount contributed totaled US\$65.3 million. The largest donors were Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and UAE, all contributing US\$62 million and pledging US\$680 million. The largest recipients of contributed funds were Syria and neighboring countries, which received US\$54.5 million.
- 4 The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) distributed funds to three countries in the MENA region in 2013. The largest recipient was Afghanistan with US\$8.5 million, followed by oPt with US\$8.2 million. Seven countries from the MENA region made contributions or pledges to the CERF in 2013. These include Qatar, Kuwait, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

APPEALS IN MENA REGION - 2013 (US\$)¹



SYRIA REGIONAL RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING 2013 (US\$)²

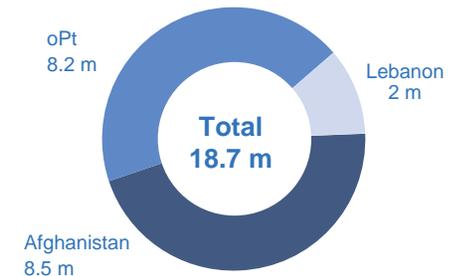


AID FLOW FROM MENA REGION - BY DESTINATION COUNTRY 2013 (US\$ Million)⁴

Country	committed/contributed	pledged	Total
Region*	16.99	712.00	728.99
Syrian	8.74	100.00	108.74
Jordan	16.18		16.18
Turkey	12.57		12.57
none	3.70	0.23	3.93
Mali	2.00		2.00
Seychelles		2.00	2.00
Myanmar	1.89		1.89
Lebanon	1.24		1.24
Kenya	0.67		0.67
oPt	0.55		0.55
Sierra Leone	0.45		0.45
Djibouti	0.15		0.15
Kazakhstan	0.10		0.10
Libya	0.06		0.06
Afghanistan	0.05		0.05
Total	65.36	814.23	879.59

* Regional funding for Syria

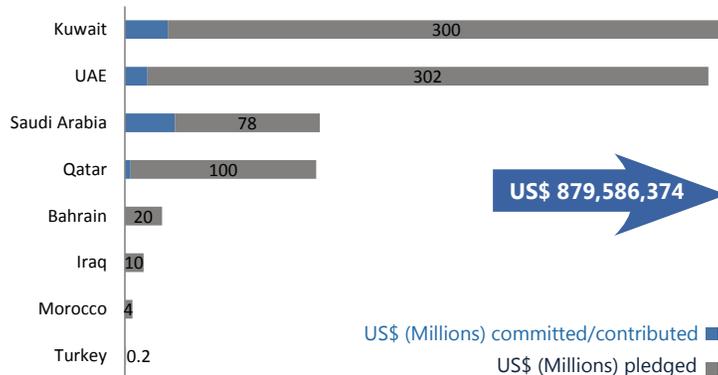
DISTRIBUTION OF CERF TO MENA IN 2013 (US\$)⁵



MENA CONTRIBUTIONS TO CERF IN 2013⁶

Donor	Contributions	Pledges	Total
Qatar	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
Kuwait	500,000	0	500,000
Turkey	250,000	0	250,000
Saudi Arabia	0	150,000	150,000
UAE	0	70,000	70,000
Pakistan	0	10,000	10,000
Afghanistan	1,000	0	1,000
Total	3,751,000	230,000	3,981,000

AID FLOW FROM MENA REGION - BY DONOR, 2013 (US\$)³



Notes: 1-Funding information:OCHA FTS, as of 10th of March 2013, all changes are reflected on <http://fts.unocha.org>

5. <http://www.unocha.org/cerf/cerf-worldwide/2013>

2. Revised Syria Regional Response Plan 2013

6. <http://www.unocha.org/cerf/our-donors/funding/pledges-and-contributions/2013>

3 - 4 . OCHA FTS